

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system having a downlink indicator channel (~~DL₁~~) for ~~the~~ transmission of an indicator signal {302} indicating that a data packet is {202} scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel (~~DL₂~~) from a primary station {100} to a secondary station {110}, the secondary station having receiving means {114} for receiving the indicator signal and the data packet, and acknowledgement means {114} for transmitting a signal {206} to the primary station to indicate the status of the received data packet, wherein the secondary station comprises means {114} for transmitting on an uplink channel (~~UL~~) a status signal {204} to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive or negative acknowledgement {206} to indicate the status of the received data packet.

2. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the status signal is the same signal as that used for a negative acknowledgement.

3. (Currently Amended) A primary station ~~(100)~~ for use in a communication system having a downlink indicator channel ~~(DL_i)~~ for the transmission of an indicator signal ~~(302)~~ indicating that a data packet ~~(202)~~ is scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel ~~(DL_i)~~ from the primary station to a secondary station ~~(110)~~, wherein means ~~(104)~~ are provided for receiving on an uplink channel ~~(UL)~~ a status signal ~~(204)~~ from the secondary station to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before reception of a positive or negative acknowledgement ~~(206)~~ to indicate the status of the data packet received by the secondary station.

4. (Currently Amended) A The primary station as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the status signal is the same signal as that used for a negative acknowledgement.

5. (Currently Amended) A secondary station for use in a communication system having a downlink indicator channel ~~(DL₁)~~ for the transmission of an indicator signal ~~(302)~~ indicating that a data packet ~~(202)~~ is scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel ~~(DL₂)~~ from a primary station ~~(100)~~ to the secondary station ~~(110)~~, wherein receiving means ~~(114)~~ are provided for receiving the indicator signal and the data packet, acknowledgement means ~~(114)~~ are provided for transmitting on an uplink channel ~~(UL)~~ a signal ~~(206)~~ to the primary station to indicate the status of the received data packet, and means ~~(114)~~ are provided for transmitting a status signal ~~(204)~~ to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive or negative acknowledgement to indicate the status of the received data packet.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the status signal is the same signal as that used for a negative acknowledgement.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 5 or 6, ~~characterised in that claim 5, wherein~~ the status

signal is transmitted at the same power as a positive acknowledgement.

8. (Currently Amended) A secondary station as claimed in ~~any one of claims 5 to 7, characterised in that means (112, 118) are provided~~ claim 5, further comprising means for resetting a timer on receipt of the indicator signal and for modifying a characteristic of uplink transmissions until the timer expires.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ secondary station as claimed in ~~claim 8, characterised in that means (114) are provided further comprising means for transmitting a negative acknowledgements for~~ each time at which a data packet could have been transmitted if no transmission of a data packet is detected, and in that such and wherein the negative acknowledgements are only transmitted until the timer expires.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ secondary station as claimed in ~~claim 8 or 9, characterised in that wherein~~ the timer has a duration of one sub-frame.

11. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterised in that means (114) are provided further comprising means~~ for transmitting a positive or negative acknowledgement of a received data packet N times, where N is predetermined, and for transmitting subsequent negative acknowledgements until the timer expires.

12. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the timer has a duration of N sub-frames.

13. (Currently Amended) A The secondary station as claimed in ~~any one of claims 5 to 12, characterised in that means (114) are provided claim 5, further comprising means~~ for transmitting a plurality of status signals before transmission of the acknowledgement.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communication system having a downlink indicator channel (~~DL_i~~) for the

transmission of an indicator signal ~~(302)~~ indicating that a data packet ~~(202)~~ is scheduled to be transmitted on a downlink data channel ~~(DL_s)~~ from a primary station ~~(100)~~ to a secondary station ~~(110)~~, the method comprising the secondary station receiving the indicator signal and the data packet, and transmitting ~~(406)~~ on an uplink channel ~~(UL)~~ a status signal ~~(204)~~ to indicate receipt of the indicator signal before transmission ~~(810, 816)~~ of a positive or negative acknowledgement to indicate the status of the received data packet.

15. (New) A communication system comprising:

a primary station; and

a secondary station;

wherein the primary station is configured to transmit an indicator signal followed by a data packet to the secondary station, and

in response to reception of the indicator signal and the data packet, the secondary station being configured to transmit a status signal to indicate the reception of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive acknowledgement or a negative

acknowledgement to indicate a status of the received data packet.

16.(New) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.

17.(New) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the primary station has two chances to detect a case where the secondary station fails to detect the indicator signal or the data packet so that a power requirement of an uplink channel from the secondary station to the primary station is reduced.

18.(New) The communication system of claim 15, wherein the secondary station further comprises a timer configured to be reset on receipt of the indicator signal, and wherein the secondary station is further configured to transmit negative acknowledgements for each time a data packet could have been transmitted if no transmission of a data packet is detected, and the negative acknowledgements being only transmitted until the timer expires.

19.(New) A primary station comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit an indicator signal followed by a data packet to a secondary station, and

a receiver configured to receive a status signal from the secondary station to indicate a reception of the indicator signal by the secondary station followed by a reception of a positive acknowledgement or a negative acknowledgement to indicate a status of the data packet received by the secondary station.

20.(New) The primary station of claim 19, wherein the status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.

21.(New) A secondary station comprising:

a receiver configured to receive an indicator signal followed by a data packet from a primary station; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a status signal to indicate reception of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive acknowledgement or a negative acknowledgement to indicate a status of the received data packet.

22.(New) The secondary station of claim 21, wherein the

status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.

23. (New) The secondary station of claim 21, further comprising a timer configured to be reset on receipt of the indicator signal, and wherein the secondary station is further configured to transmit negative acknowledgements for each time a data packet could have been transmitted if no transmission of a data packet is detected, and the negative acknowledgements being only transmitted until the timer expires.

24. (New) A method of communication between a primary station and a secondary station comprising the acts of:

transmitting by the primary station an indicator signal followed by a data packet to the secondary station; and

in response to reception of the indicator signal and the data packet, the secondary station transmitting a status signal to indicate the reception of the indicator signal before transmission of a positive acknowledgement or a negative acknowledgement to indicate a status of the received data packet.

25.(New) The method of claim 24, wherein the status signal is a same signal as the negative acknowledgement.